



THLOPTHLOCCO TRIBAL TOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

P.O. Box 188 - OKEMAH, OK 74859

(918) 560-6198 OR (866) 988-8696

FAX — (918) 623-3023

Applicant's Form Identifier: TTT-Library

Date: 6/22/2015

Dear Sir/Madame,

Please consider granting an extension/waiver of the E-Rate Form 471 deadline date of 3-26-14 for funding Year 2014. We are a Public Library operated by a federally-recognized Native American tribe, recently certified by the Oklahoma Department of Public Libraries.

Funding year 2014 was the first year that the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Public Library attempted to request E-Rate Funding. Unfortunately Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Public Library was not aware of the USAC SLD's E-Rate program or its deadlines until after the Form 471 deadline date of March 26, 2014, for Funding Year 2014-2015.

After learning about the E-Rate program, we filed Form 470 in April 2014. We then *mistakenly* thought that we did not need to file the Form 471 until the next funding year because we had received incorrect technical advice from our service provider, Windstream Communications, LLC, who has a department that handles E-Rate accounts.

Again, *mistakenly*, we thought the next step in the process was to file a Request for Waiver with the FCC. Again, this was part of the incorrect technical advice we had received. In fact, we had begun asking our service provider as early as August 2014 if we needed to file a Form 471 for funding year 2014. We did not receive a clear answer from our service provider until September 2014 and then were told we did not need to take any additional steps. It wasn't until March 2015 that we were told to file the Request for Waiver after we began receiving disconnection notices. The Request for Waiver has since been denied because we did not file the Form 471 for Funding Year 2014.

That is the main reason we are filing our Form 471 and Request for Waiver so late.

Since our program is unable to pay a consultant, we relied on our service provider for technical assistance with the E-Rate application process. We now have an employee dedicated to becoming proficient with the program and with filing the various forms by their respective deadlines. We also realize now that USAC is the proper place to get technical assistance.

Your consideration and approval of the Request for Waiver will allow the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Library to be considered for E-Rate funds for Funding Year 2014 and try to realize its goal of promoting the general welfare needs of the local community.



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The public library makes available a variety of books for all ages. Some literary topics include: Native American content, Children's literature, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Health, Science, and many others. We have Resource manuals for the ACT-2008 Edition, The G.E.D. for Dummies, and Hooked on Phonics. The library currently has two (2) computers and is working to grow that number to four (4) in the next year.

Receiving E-rate funding for access to the Internet is critical to our efforts to serve our community. We allow public Wi-Fi use which aids many people in the local community who can't afford Internet services or who have few, if any, affordable Internet options in the rural areas in which they live.

During the summer months, the library offers a Summer Reading program for children ages 4-12 and access to the Internet is an important part of the program. Internet access provides the children with additional educational opportunities such as viewing family-safe filtered educational content during the summer months.

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town's goal is to promote the general educational and informational needs of the local community in broad areas such as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S.T.E.M), private living and operations, health and wellness, cultural diversity, and social interaction at all levels of diversification.

Continued existence of the Library is a critical component in our plans to accomplish our goals and receiving E-Rate funds is critical to the continued existence of the Library. Again, we ask that you please approve the Form 471 deadline Request for Waiver for funding year 2014.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon Taylor

Director

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Public Library